

REMARKS

The Office action mailed September 15, 2003 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1, 2, 4-16, 22, and 25 are pending. Claims 1, 2, and 4 through 16 have been allowed. Claims 22 and 25 stand rejected. The application is to be amended as previously set forth. All amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A. Priority:

Applicants' priority claim was questioned. First, applicants have amended the "Cross-reference to Related Applications" portion of the application to recite the priority claim more clearly.

The Office asserted that the '121 application was filed five months after the '161 application and, thus, the priority claim was inappropriate. Reconsideration is requested. On its face, U.S. Patent 6,162,461 (the application that issued from application U.S.S.N. 08/454,121) specifically claims priority from application No. 08/454,121, filed as application No. PCT/NL94/00168, July 19, 1994, now U.S. Patent 6,071,520, which was a continuation-in-part of 08/030,335, now U.S. Patent 5,491,073, filed as application No. PCT/NL91/00165, Sept. 11, 1991. Accordingly, the priority claim to U.S.S.N. 08/454,121 would appear appropriate. To the extent it is not, clarification is specifically requested.

B. Claim Objections:

Claims 22 and 25 were objected to for formal reasons. Applicants have adopted the suggestions of the Examiner, and thus request that the objections be withdrawn.

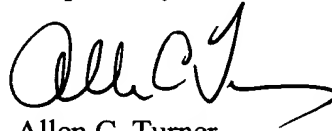
C. Double Patenting:

Claims 22 and 25 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent 6,472,142, 5,981,502, and 6,162,461. Applicants submit herewith appropriate terminal disclaimers to overcome the rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the application should be in condition for allowance. If questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen C. Turner", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

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Enclosures: Terminal Disclaimers